

ONLY A PLAIN GOLD BAND.

Facts About Wedding and Engagement Rings Some People May Like to Know.

A Plain One for the Ceremony and a Solitaire Diamond as a Betrothal Token.

Twelve Stones of the Amulet and the Months of the Year With Which They Correspond.

"One may easily guess the errand of the man who comes to buy a wedding ring," said a salesman of a great jeweler's day or two ago, to a New York Star reporter. "He has the guilty look of the man who contemplates theft, and his nervousness at once betrays him. Sometimes the expectant bride accompanies her future lord, and then there is no end of blushes and conscious glances and laughing whispers. Hundreds of such visits are paid to this one house every month."

All the world knows that a plain gold ring is the proper thing to buy for the wedding ceremony. You may see them by hundreds in the show cases of the jeweler. The most popular wedding rings cost from \$10 to \$12. You may get them either cheaper or dearer. They run from 18 to 22 carats fine. The alloy is silver, to give the fine yellow hue that makes the ring look rich and precious; brass, to harden the metal, and sometimes copper to deepen the color. Did you ever guess that a piece of wire is not so easy to guess right as you might suppose. Jewelers recognize sizes and half sizes from one to fifteen. Size 1 is 7-16 of an inch in diameter. Size 15 is 15-16 of an inch in diameter. The sizes most often sold are 5 and 6, and sizes above 8 are seldom kept in stock. It is a very large ring which requires size 10. Wedding rings are made from stout gold wire, properly alloyed. When one is made to order, a piece of wire in length a little more than three times the diameter of the ring to be made is clipped off. It is then shaped something like the proper level, turned into a hoop and finished up with proper finishing. At some shops a thin wash of pure gold is placed on the surface to give special brilliancy. Very heavy wedding rings are affected by persons of questionable taste. The weight runs from four to thirty pennyweights. The value of the metal in the ring is small in proportion to the price.

You may have within the ring whatever inscription you please, and the initials of the bride and groom. The "French Alliance" ring is worn in some cases.

It is a plain gold ring wrought in two parts, which are fitted so neatly together that they seem one. A knife blade in a left hand will separate them, and then they hang like the links of a chain. A little piece is left in the middle of the ring, so that the two parts join, so that when the rings are as one no inscription is visible. This ring is used in France almost invariably. Any further departure from the plain gold ring, the wedding ceremony is frowned upon by custom.

The engagement ring is quite a different matter, though among persons of moderate means, and especially among those religious sects in which marriage "with the ring" is unusual, the plain gold ring is often given as an engagement pledge. The proper thing for those who can afford it is a solitaire diamond. This is not so alarming as it sounds. You may get a pretty sparkling stone, set in a thin gold wire, for from \$15 to \$25. The most popular engagement rings are solitaires ranging in price from \$75 to \$175.

The ring itself is not so heavy as the wedding ring, though there are departures from what is called the "wire mount." Solitaires run as high as \$500. Such stones weigh five or six carats. They would hardly be worn by women of good taste, as a five-carat diamond measures nearly half an inch in diameter, and is an extremely conspicuous object. Now and then a successful gambler has a twenty or twenty-five carat diamond set in a ring, but such a jewel is worth a small fortune and could hardly be worn in public.

Other stones are sometimes set in engagement rings, though persons of the best taste choose the diamond. Pearls, diamonds, are sometimes given. Single pearls, too, are not unusual. Then there are the unnumberable combinations in the French taste—love knots encrusted with diamonds, rubies set in a heart-shaped border of diamonds, and a dozen others. Superstition still makes the opal unpopular as an engagement ring. The dislike of the opal is fast dying out, however, and it has a steady sale. Solitaire opals sell from \$200 to \$500, and large opals, set with small diamonds, fetch great prices. Queen Victoria's opal ring, which she wore for many years, has given many opals as presents. The Empress Eugenie, most unfortunate of modern sovereigns, has always refused to wear the opal.

It is a common thing for persons in search of birthday gifts to inquire of jewelers what is the proper gem for one born in a given month. At least two such lists, fitting the precious stones to the months, have been made out after a careful study of classical authorities.

The following is the list of the twelve stones of the amulet, with their zodiacal signs and the months of the year with which they correspond:

Garnet.	Aquarius.	January.
Amethyst.	Pisces.	February.
Jasper.	Aries.	March.
Sapphires.	Taurus.	April.
Agate.	Gemini.	May.
Emerald.	Cancer.	June.
Onyx.	Leo.	July.
Chrysolite.	Virgo.	August.
Chrysolite.	Libra.	September.
Aquamarine.	Scorpio.	October.
Topaz.	Sagittarius.	November.
Opal.	Capricornus.	December.

This list comes down from the ancient Greeks. Here is another list, known as the Poles' list, and the one usually regarded as the standard:

January—Garnet.	July—Carneolite.
February—Amethyst.	August—Sardonyx.
March—Sapphire.	September—Chrysolite.
April—Diamond.	October—Opal.
May—Emerald.	November—Topaz.
June—Agate.	December—Opal.

According to a pretty tradition, each stone stands for some virtue or good fortune. Here is their significance:

Garnet—Constancy.	Amethyst—Sincerity.
Sapphire—Wisdom.	Diamond—Innocence.
Emerald—Success in Agate—Health and long life.	Carneolite—Content.
Sardonyx—Conjugal love.	Chrysolite—An antidote to madness.
Opal—Fidelity.	Turquoise—Prosperity.

Marquise rings are again fashionable. They are a revival of an old French fashion in jewels. The long, narrow setting of the ring extends up and down the finger, occupying almost a whole joint. The setting is composed of diamonds, with pearls, rubies, sapphires, garnets, emeralds or almost any other stone in a great variety of arrangements. The price may be almost anything, from \$50 to \$500. An odd combination is three rings, each entirely separate from the other, and each pinched at opposite poles, so as to give the suggestion of a heart-shaped ring. They fit close together on the finger. One is set with rubies around the whole circumference, one with diamonds and one with sapphires. They are worn in the order named.

are on one hoop, and the other hoops fit about this so that the effect is of two coiled serpents. All sorts of serpent rings, by the way, have a new lease of popularity. There is a pretty legend of one East Indian puzzle. It is made of four slender hoops of gold fitted together in a complicated knot having four angles. Each angle is supposed to keep off a separate evil spirit. Here is the story of the ring:

When the Destroyer killed Vishnu the Pre-server he found a blood stain on the third finger of his left hand. He tried to cleanse it in the river, and behold, the water was polluted. After that the whole Brahmin sect found that the third finger of the right hand was accursed, and when they sprinkled water in religious rites the water was polluted. Then they took to placing on the finger a ring of woven river grass. This contrived the evil, and finally they were directed from heaven to make for themselves rings of precious metal in imitation of the woven rings of river grass. The rings were woven, and they were found potent to counteract the evil that Levi had brought upon the sect.

The four-hoop East India ring is beautiful, but complicated. One who does not understand its structure might spend hours in a vain effort to fit the hoops together.

A recent fancy for rings of elaborately chased gold, the designs being taken from ancient models or from Oriental ornaments, has been very popular. American Indian designs are also used with excellent results. Platinum rings have been made, but they are mere curiosities. The metal is extremely light, but very expensive.

Every large jeweler is called upon from time to time to furnish episcopal rings to the Roman Catholic bishops. The episcopal ring is a gigantic affair, with an oval setting more than an inch long and two-thirds as wide. It is worn on all ceremonial occasions.

ANANIAS IS ABROAD.

Joe Mulhatten Turns Up in Kansas City Alive and in Good Health.

It is a little strange to meet a fellow who claims the distinction—and stands ready to make good the claim—of being the biggest liar on earth. The Kansas City News had a visitor of this kind yesterday in the person of Joseph Mulhatten. Mr. Mulhatten is one of the best-known traveling men in the country. He hails from Kentucky, and is an artist. Mr. Mulhatten doesn't build his colossal fabrications with a hatchet and saw. He exerts great ingenuity. When he turns out of his busy brain a story marked complete, it may be taken for granted that there is a lie about as is a lie.

Coupled with a vivid imagination of the Rider Hagard style, Mr. Mulhatten has a flow of language that is wonderful. He is a graceful writer, and any paper in the country is proud to publish a Mulhatten lie. One of Mr. Mulhatten's stories, that provoked the widest discussion and started an international controversy, appeared about two years ago. The narrative read that James Guthrie, a well-known Kentucky planter had gotten a cargo of monkeys from South America, and had trained them to break hemp and work in cotton. The story dwelt at length on the tractability of the monkeys, and told of several riots that the working people precipitated on account of the new crop of competition. The story went on to say that the monkeys were introduced as the "biggest liar on earth." When I first met him I showed him his monkey story in the London Standard, and he said he would rather have inherited a fortune. When asked why he troubled himself to get up such enormous lies, Mr. Mulhatten said: "I have discovered that there is nothing men believe quicker than a whopper. I have never manufactured a malicious story, but in traveling about there is always something that suggests itself. I write it off and send it to some paper and away it goes."

No traveling man is better known than this distinguished liar. A few years ago he was the drummer's candidate for president on a platform that made the country roar.

Tanning an Elephant Hide. St. James' Gazette: It weighed about 1,300 pounds, and was about an inch and a third thick. After being put into a reservoir of pure water to green it, it was beaten for one hour every day with an iron on a large anvil. After being ten days in pure water it was left for another ten days in water with about 4 percent of salt. Then it was replaced in pure water again for twenty days. During those forty days it was constantly in soak. The head and feet, weighing about 300 pounds, were then removed, and the skin lying in spikes in the drying room. After hanging one day it was put in a pot containing potash and a small quantity of sulphur of sodium in the following proportions: Water, 1,000 parts; slacked lime, twenty-five parts; potash, three parts; sulphur of sodium, two parts. After being two days in this bath it was rinsed in pure water of a temperature of about 100 degrees, when it was again placed in the drying room. After this double operation was repeated three times the skin was ready to have the hair taken off. This operation occupied about one day's time, and cost about 75 pounds of hair. Another day was spent in cleaning and scraping. By this time it lost 30 percent of its weight. The operation of its preparation lasted two months, and it went through the same course as the hide, with the difference that each phase of the work took three times as much time. The skin should be stretched in the pit, and placed in the middle of the cow house. Six layers of powder are then thrown in; two first, two second, and two third layers. Altogether the tanning takes three years. The portion of time is thus: Bleaching green, 10 days; tanning, 16 days; preparation, 30 days; repetition, 60 days; first pit (double), 200 days; second pit (double), 300 days; third pit (double), 400 days.

Merit Wins. We desire to say to our citizens, that for years we have been selling Dr. King's New Life Pills, Bucklen's Arnica Salve and Electric Bitters, and have never had a remedy that sold as well, or that have given such universal satisfaction. We do not hesitate to guarantee them every time, and we stand ready to refund the purchase price if satisfactory results do not follow their use. These remedies have won their great popularity purely on their merits. R. S. Hale & Co., druggists.

A gentleman who had suffered great annoyance and pain from barber's itch, and had been treated by the best physicians, without relief, says that two bottles of Dr. King's Specific cured him and left his face perfectly smooth without a scar. It never fails in skin diseases. Sold by R. S. Hale & Co., wholesale and retail agents, Helena.

Just called at Fred Gamers' and got a lot of apples, as he is selling them at a very low figure.

THE REVENUE OF THE POPE.

Millions Received Each Year, But Only a Mite Used For Himself.

The collections of St. Peter's pence have produced on an average since 1870 a little more than 7,000,000 lire, and they never were over 6,000,000 in any year, says a Rome letter. Of that amount two-thirds are furnished by France alone, while Italy, which is drawing such material and moral profit from the presence of the pope at Rome that she would forcibly oppose his departure from there, contributed last year only 15,000 lire (\$3,000) to the Peter's pence fund. No general organization is provided toward the collecting of that fund; no fixed or regular method of collection has ever been established. Everywhere the offering is free and anonymous. Two collections only take place each year in the churches, and pence or silver coins are thrown in the basket by the faithful who feel disposed to tender their offering.

On some occasions a supplement of revenue comes to the pope, as, for instance, on the first of January last, when he officiated at what is called the "Golden Mass." He received more than 3,000,000 lire (\$600,000) for his fees. It is the habit of giving a fee for every sacred mass to the priest who officiates, a fee which is usually as low as 20c in village churches of Europe. At the jubilee of Leo XIII., besides the sacred vestments, the clerical vestments and other precious ornaments offered to him, he received 500,000 francs from the single convent of the Grande Chartreuse, near Grenoble, France, where the Carthusian monks manufacture their celebrated cordial.

From all these sources money is poured down at the Vatican in sufficient quantities to answer all requirements. Leo XIII., whose ascetic mode of living is well known, does not spend \$1,000 a year for his immediate wants. His principal mundane care, his hobby, is to keep in an excellent condition the Vatican buildings.

A Safe Investment

is one which is guaranteed to bring you satisfactory results, or in case of failure a return of purchase price. On this safe plan you can buy from our advertised druggist, a bottle of Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption. It is guaranteed to bring relief in every case, when used for any affection of throat, lungs or chest, such as Consumption, Inflammation of Lungs, Asthma, Whooping Cough, etc. It is pleasant and agreeable to the taste, perfectly safe and can always be depended upon. Trial bottles free at R. S. Hale & Co.'s drug store.

The Spartan Virtue of Fortitude

Must be possessed in no ordinary degree by those who bear the pangs of rheumatism without complaint. We have never heard of such an individual. But why not, ere the lifelong martyrdom begins, extinguish the germ of this atrocious malady with Hostetter's Stomach Bitters, the efficacy of which as a preventive of the disease, as well as a means of relieving it, is well established and amply attested during the last thirty-five years, over professional signatures? It expurgates from the blood those acid principles which beget the pain and inflammation characteristic of this complaint, which, if should be neglected, is always liable to terminate life suddenly when it attacks a vital part. The Bitters also expels the virus of malaria from the system, remedies dyspepsia, kidney complaint, constipation and biliousness, quiets the nerves and invigorates the whole physical organism.

GREAT ENGLISH REMEDY.

MURRAY'S SPECIFIC.

A guaranteed cure for all nervous diseases, such as WEAK MEMORY, LOSS OF BRAIN POWER, Hysteria, Headache, PAIN IN THE BACK, NEURALGIA, BRUISTATION, FULNESS, LECORRHŒA.

Before taking MURRAY'S SPECIFIC, read the following: LASSITUDE, SEMINAL WEAKNESS, Impotency and general loss of power of the Generative Organs, in either sex, caused by indiscretion or over-exertion, and which ultimately lead to PRE-MATURE OLD AGE, DEBILITY AND CONSUMPTION. \$1 a box or six boxes for 5. Sent by mail on receipt of price. After taking particulars in pamphlet, sent free to every applicant.

WE GUARANTEE SIX BOXES to cure any case. For every 50c received, we send six boxes, with a written guarantee to refund the money if our Specific does not effect a cure.

Address all communications to the Sole Manufacturers, THE MURRAY MEDICINE CO., Kansas City, Mo.

For sale in Helena by H. M. Padden & Co.

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CONDENSED RAILWAY TIME TABLE

Montana Central.

DEPART.

St. Paul, Atlantic ex. St. Paul and east. 11:35 a. m.
Helena and Butte ex. Butte and south. 4:30 p. m.
Helena and Butte ex. Butte and south. 8:15 a. m.
Marquette ex. Marquette and west. 10:30 a. m.
Marquette ex. Marquette and west. 6:40 p. m.

ARRIVE.

St. Paul, Atlantic ex. Butte and south. 11:25 a. m.
Montana, Pacific ex. St. Paul and east. 8:45 p. m.
Helena and Butte ex. Butte and south. 8:30 a. m.
Rimmi ex. Mon. West. and Fri. 2:15 a. m.
Wicks and Boulder passenger. 10:05 a. m.
Marquette accommodation. 2:30 p. m.

Northern Pacific.

Through westbound. 2:50 p. m.
Through eastbound. 7:20 p. m.
Butte, Missoula and Helena ex. 12:20 p. m.
Marquette passenger. 8:40 a. m.
Rimmi ex. Mon. West. and Fri. 2:15 a. m.
Wicks and Boulder passenger. 10:05 a. m.
Marquette accommodation. 2:30 p. m.

Union Pacific.

DEPART.

For all points east, south and west, via Montana Central and Butte. 4:00 p. m.
Via Northern Pacific and Garrison. 3:15 p. m.

ARRIVE.

From all points east, south and west, via Montana Central and Butte. 11:25 a. m.
Via Garrison and Northern Pacific. 12:20 p. m.

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If you would enjoy your dinner and are prevented by Dyspepsia, use Ayer's Dyspepsia Tablets. They are a positive cure for Dyspepsia, Indigestion, Flatulency and Constipation. We guarantee them. 25 and 50 cents. For sale by R. S. Hale & Co.

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Fred Greene, G. P. A., Salt Lake, City, Utah.